

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tightening band where both end sections of a metal ~~strip-like strip~~ band member are overlapped and temporarily held with the tightening band in a ring shape and a diameter of the band member can be reduced by using a tool to pull together inner and outer pulling claws formed on an inner band section and an outer band section so as to protrude outward,

wherein an upright portion formed so as to be erected outward, a stopper receiving hole, and a fixing claw are provided in that order from an end section on a part of the inner band section that overlaps the outer band section,

a fixing hole, a ~~tab-like stopper~~ tab stopper formed so that a tip thereof is inclined toward the inner band section, and an elongated hole that guides movement of the upright portion are provided in that order from an end section on a part of the outer band section that overlaps the inner band section,

the upright portion of the inner band section is inserted into the elongated hole in the outer band section and the tab stopper ~~tab-like stopper~~ of the outer band section is inserted in a cutout hole on a base end side of the upright portion so that the band member is temporarily held in a ring shape, and the inner and outer pulling claws are pulled together to cause the fixing hole in the outer band section to engage the fixing claw of the inner band section and the tab stopper ~~tab-like stopper~~ to engage the stopper receiving hole, thereby fixing the band member in a state where the diameter is reduced.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A tightening~~ The tightening band according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 1,

wherein the tab stopper ~~tab-like stopper~~ is formed by forming cuts in a lengthwise direction at an edge of the elongated hole on the outer band end side and inclining the tip toward the inner band section.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A tightening~~ The tightening band according to claim 1  
~~Claim 1,~~

wherein the inner pulling claw is formed so as to protrude outward at a position further from an inner band end than the fixing claw and the outer pulling claw is formed so as to protrude outward between the fixing hole and the tab stopper ~~tab-like stopper~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The tightening ~~A tightening~~ band according to ~~Claim 1~~  
claim 1,

wherein clamping end surface sections are formed on the inner and outer pulling claws so as to be substantially parallel with top end surface sections that protrude outward in an arch-like shape.

5. to 7. (Cancelled)